

I read an article about Ms. Murphy's judicial appointment and wanted to share with you my concerns about her. I was also involved in the custody case as an expert witness who reviewed all of the evidence. I am a Ph. D. psychologist and international expert in child trauma and abuse. The evidence of sexual abuse in the case was overwhelming and the child's behaviors were so serious that many settings would have hospitalized the child in a psychiatric setting. I have testified in 26 states and been involved in cases involving overlap between custody and abuse hundreds of times. I have never observed a child's guardian ad litem act so openly unprofessional and biased, and make recommendations that violated every known principle of child development. Even if she were skeptical of the overwhelming evidence, she should have allowed the hypothesis that the father was abusing the child to be investigated. Instead, she advocated a custody arrangement that would virtually prevent the information from coming to light, but giving the alleged abuser unfettered access and limiting all opportunities for the child to give further disclosures. Having interfered with the child's access to his mother, Ms. Murphy then orchestrated ways to prevent his access to care and professionals who might be able to listen to him, frightening the professionals into accepting her point of view and punishing the mother for accessing emergency care. This child is suffering still because of her actions, deprived of a loving mother, and constrained from expressing himself, and forced to live with someone against whom the child made clear allegations of abuse, someone who subjects him to inappropriate adult sexual materials, and uses the court system to carry out an agenda of harm against his ex.. I wonder if the child will ever be able to have a normal life at this point, but am hopeful that further court actions can correct the horrible wrong done by Ms. Murphy to this little boy. I do not know her motivations for violating so many known principles of child welfare--whether it is ignorance, bias, or collusion. But whatever her motives, there is no doubt in my mind that the children of Connecticut would suffer severely if Ms Murphy is given the power to control the future safety of the children who would cross her path.

I have never written such a letter before and strongly believe in our judicial system.

Thanks for accepting these remarks and taking them into consideration.

Sincerely,

Joyanna Silberg, Ph. D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
Author, The Child Survivor, Routledge Press